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United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

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## **CATARACT LAKE (UPPER)- FDT 63**

**Difficulty:** MORE DIFFICULT

**Trail Use:** Moderate to Heavy

**Length:** 6.52 miles one-way

**Elevation:** Start at 8,597 feet and ends at 10,613 feet (highest point 10,878 feet)

**Elevation Gain:** +2,650 feet - 634 feet = +2,016 feet

**Open To:** HIKING

### **Access:**

- From I-70 take Exit 205, Silverthorne / Dillon, and travel north on HWY 9.
- Travel 16 miles north on HWY 9. Just after mile marker 118 turn left onto County Road 30, toward the town of Heeney.
- Follow County Road 30 for 5.3 miles and turn left onto Cataract Creek Road (FDR 1725).
- Continue for 2.5 miles to the parking area at the end of the road. Please do not block the gate. The trailhead starts at the foot bridge. This trail begins from the Surprise Lake Trailhead (FDT 62).

### **Trail Highlights:**

- An abundance of wildflowers can be seen from late-June through mid-July.
- The lower quarter of the trail is a pleasant walk through open aspen groves. However, the trail becomes increasingly more difficult as you climb in elevation through fir and spruce forest.
- Approximately 2.35 miles from the trailhead you will intersect with the Gore Range Trail (FDT 60).
- Turn right (west) on the Gore Range Trail and approximately .81 miles further on you will arrive at the intersection for the Upper Cataract Lake Trail, which will be on your left (southwest).
- Travel approximately 2.16 miles to Upper Cataract Lake, which will be on your left. Many views of the Cataract Creek drainage are available along this trail.
- Approximately 1.31 miles further on from Upper Cataract Lake you will come to Mirror Lake. Fishing is reported to be good in both of these lakes.

### **Important Information:**

- **THIS IS A REC FEE DEMO AREA.**
- **BECAUSE THIS TRAIL TRAVELS INTO THE EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS NO BICYCLES ARE ALLOWED AND DOGS *MUST* BE ON A LEASH NOT LONGER THAN SIX (6) FEET IN LENGTH!**
- **WITHIN THE EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS, NO CAMPFIRES ARE ALLOWED ABOVE TREELINE NOR WITHIN .25 MILES (440 YARDS) OF ANY LAKE.**
- This trail can be especially busy on weekends, so try and plan your hike during the week.

**PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!**

*THIS MAP IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, NOT FOR ACTUAL LAND NAVIGATION. THE WHITE RIVER NF STRONGLY SUGGESTS PURCHASING A TOPOGRAPHIC MAP AND GPS OR COMPASS PRIOR TO YOUR HIKING OR HORSE TRIP.*